

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10  
STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00  
PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-06 ITC-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 OIC-02 IO-14 AS-01 SIL-01 /154 W  
-----122335 241935Z /42

O 241849Z JAN 78

FM US MISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5061

DEPTREAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MISSION GENEVA 01051

USMTN

USIA FOR IEU, IOP, IPS, IBS

PASS STR, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE, LABOR ELECTRONICALLY

PASS USITC ELECTRONICALLY

STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: GENEVA PRESS CONFERENCE BY AMB ROBERT STRAUSS

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1. SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT S. STRAUSS HELD A WELL ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE AT 9:00 AM, JANUARY 24, AT THE PALAIS DES NATIONS IN GENVA, AS A FOLLOW-UP TO AN INFORMAL GATT MEETING THE PREVIOUS DAY MARKING THE TRANSITION TO THE SUBSTANTIVE PHASE OF THE MTN. DUE TO AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' TIGHT SCHEDULING, THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD TO FIFTEEN MINUTES.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. BEGIN TEXT: AMBASSADOR STRAUSS. FIRST LET ME SAY, I HAVE NO REAL OPENING STATEMENT OTHER THAN TO TELL YOU THAT I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE. WE MET HERE SOME MONTHS AGO AND I HOPE TO BE BACK ON MORE REGULAR INTERVALS TO GET TO KNOW A NUMBER OF YOU THAT I DON'T KNOW ON A PERSONAL BASIS. I'M RUSHING TO CATCH A DAMNED OLD PLANE AND WE HAD A BREAKFAST THIS MORNING WITH THE LDC'S, A NUMBER OF THEM, ABOUT 20-ODD. A VERY WARM AND CONSTRUCTIVE BREAKFAST AND ONE IN WHICH WE HAD A LESS FORMAL ATMOSPHERE THAN WE DID YESTERDAY AND WE TALKED PRAGMATICALLY AND EARNESTLY AND I THOUGHT CONSTRUCTIVELY, AND I THINK THEY'LL THINK THE SAME. AS I SAID TO THEM, WE'RE IN THIS NEGOTIATION FOR DEAD EARNEST AND THE MID-JULY TIMETABLE WE SET IS FOR DEAD EARNEST JUST LIKE EVERY ONE OF THE OTHER TIMETABLES WE'VE SET HAVE BEEN AND THAT WE'VE MET. I THINK THE TIME TO MOVE IS NOW. I THINK THREE, THREE AND A HALF YEARS, WERE SUBSTANTIALLY, I GUESS WASTED IS A LITTLE HARSH TERM, BUT NOT PROPERLY UTILIZED, MAKES IT NECESSARY THAT WE MOVE AHEAD WITH ALL THE SPEED POSSIBLE TODAY. WE CAN MEET OUR JULY DEADLINE. AND THEY TELL ME THE TIME IS NOT RIGHT. THEY SAID THE TIME WASN'T RIGHT THREE YEARS AGO AND THEY WOULD HAVE HAD THIS BEHIND THEM NOW AND WE WOULDN'T BE WORRYING ABOUT IT AND THINGS WOULD BE BETTER OFF. I'VE NEVER BEEN INVOLVED IN

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ANYTHING YET WHERE THE TIME WAS RIGHT. IF JIMMY CARTER HAD WAITED FOR THE RIGHT TIME, HE'D STILL BE BACK ON A PEANUT FARM. HE DIDN'T LISTEN TO THOSE WHO SAID THE TIME IS NOT RIGHT FOR YOU TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT, AND IF WE HAD LISTENED TO THOSE WHO SAID THE TIME WAS NOT RIGHT FOR THIS ROUND TO GET STARTED, I'D STILL BE JOINING IN THOSE VOICES THAT BAYED AT THE MOON FOR THREE YEARS. WE'VE MOVED, WE'VE MADE GREAT PROGRESS, WE'VE GOT HARD, ROUGH-GOING WITH THESE NEGOTIATIONS BUT IT WON'T BE, CANNOT BE ANY HARDER THAN IT WAS GETTING PEOPLE TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY AND MOVE AHEAD. I'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE SUCH QUESTIONS AS YOU HAVE FOR A FEW MINUTES. PRIMARILY I WANTED TO THANK YOU AND GIVE YOU A FEEL FOR THE FACT THAT WE'RE BACK IN TOWN. YES.

4. UNGEHEUR, TIME MAGAZINE. AS A PERCENTAGE OF GNP, THE US HAS THE SMALLEST EXPOSURE TO WORLD TRADE OF ALL THE NEGOTIATING PARTIES. WHY DO WE HAVE THE GREATEST SENSE OF URGENCY?

5. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS. I THINK WE HAVE A FULL APPRECIATION OF WHAT TRADE LIBERALIZATION CAN MEAN, NOT JUST TO OUR OWN COUNTRY, BUT FOR THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD. I DON'T THINK

THAT HAS TO BE EXPRESSED IN FRACTIONS OF WORLD TRADE. I  
THINK IT IS EXPRESSED IN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT LIBERALIZED  
TRADE MEANS TO THE WORLD. I THINK WE HAVE THAT UNDERSTAND-  
ING. I THINK HISTORY IS ON OUR SIDE. AND I THINK IF THIS  
ISN'T DONE NOW, IT WON'T BE DONE. WHENEVER I'M IN ANYTHING,  
IT HAS A SENSE OF URGENCY TO IT. MAYBE THAT'S JUST MY GREAT  
WEAKNESS OR GREAT STRENGTH; YOU'LL HAVE TO DECIDE WHICH.

6. KILIAN, VOA. MR. STRAUSS, IF THE CLOCK STARTED RUNNING  
OUT ON THIS TIMETABLE, WOULD YOU BE FORCED TO SETTLE FOR  
SOMETHING LESS THAN YOUR AMBITIONS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS?

7. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS. I WOULD NOT. I'M GOING TO MAKE IT  
VERY CLEAR THAT I DON'T THINK THE JULY TIMETABLE IS A SHARP  
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5062

DEPTREAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 GENEVA 01051

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PASS STR, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE, LABOR ELECTRONICALLY

PASS USITC ELECTRONICALLY

STR PASS CODEL

TIMETABLE AT ALL. I THINK IT'S A FULL ONE AND WE WILL COME BACK AND COMPLETE A TREATY, SUBSTANTIVE, OR THERE WILL BE NO TREATY FOR US, AS FAR AS THE U.S. IS CONCERNED. I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE BACK TO CONGRESS SOMETHING THAT'S A FRAUD ON UNCLASSIFIED

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THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OR ON THE WORLD, WHERE WE CLAIM TO DO SOMETHING BUT IN FACT, WE DIDN'T DO IT. THAT'S ONE THING I AM NOT GOING TO TAKE BACK. NUMBER TWO, I HAVE ENOUGH SENSE TO KNOW, I'M A REALIST ENOUGH TO KNOW, THAT WE CAN'T SEEK AN A PLUS RESULT FOR THE U.S. BECAUSE THAT MEANS THAT SOMEONE ELSE IS GOING TO GET D MINUS OR C MINUS. WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO GET A B RESULT FOR EVERYBODY AROUND HERE. NO ONE IS GOING TO GET EVERYTHING THEY WANT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. EVERYONE CAN GET WHAT THEY NEED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. I HOPE HISTORIANS WILL VIEW, IN HINDSIGHT, THAT AS OUR ACCOMPLISHMENT HERE.

8. MCGREGOR, TIMES OF LONDON. MR. STRAUSS, IN YOUR SPEECH YESTERDAY, YOU GAVE SOME RATHER DIRE PREDICTIONS AS TO WHAT THE RESULTS WILL BE IF THE TOKYO ROUND DID NOT SUCCEED. WHAT WAS THE TIME CONTEXT OF THOSE DIRE RESULTS?

9. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS. OH, I DON'T KNOW. I THINK IF WE FAIL TO GO FORWARD, WE'LL MOVE BACKWARD. AND IF WE MOVE BACKWARD AND CAVE IN, I DON'T KNOW WHEN THE CONGRESS IS GOING TO CLOSE THE DOORS IN THE UNITED STATES. I DON'T KNOW WHEN THE EC WILL RAISE ITS CURTAINS AND I DON'T KNOW WHEN JAPAN WILL GO BACK TO PAST DAYS, BUT I THINK AS SURE AS WE SIT HERE THOSE THINGS MUST INEVITABLY HAPPEN. IN OUR OWN COUNTRY THE VOICES OF PROTECTIONISM ARE STRONG; THEY'RE LOUD, AND THEY'RE VERY FORCEFUL AND YOU GET A LOG-ROLLING EFFORT OF THREE OR FOUR DIFFERENT ELEMENTS THERE AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'LL HAVE NO TRADE. PRESIDENT CARTER DESERVES GREAT CREDIT. LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR. IN MY JUDGMENT, THIS IS A STORY THAT HASN'T BEEN TOLD HERE, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, IS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO A LIBERALIZED TRADE POSTURE IS THE THING THAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR HAVING ACHIEVED THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE. IF PRESIDENT

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CARTER HADN'T GONE TO PARIS A FEW WEEKS AGO AND TALKED TO THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER IN A SMALL ROOM, WITH JUST TWO OR THREE OF US PRESENT AND WE HADN'T DISCUSSED VERY CANDIDLY WHAT WE THOUGHT THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION WAS, I'M NOT AT ALL CERTAIN, IN FACT, I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT THE EC WOULD HAVE MOVED THIS FAR. IF PRESIDENT CARTER HADN'T SAT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND HADN'T BEEN IN DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN JAPAN, AND WITH MR. USHIBA AND OTHERS ON A PERSONAL BASIS, I'M NOT SURE JAPAN WOULD HAVE BEEN WHERE THEY ARE TODAY. AND IF PRESIDENT CARTER HADN'T CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THIS AGGRESSIVE POSTURE, POSITIVE POSTURE -- TWO OR THREE MINUTES OF HIS STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS WERE DEVOTED TO TRADE THIS LAST WEEK -- IF HE HADN'T DONE THAT, I WOULDN'T BE HERE AND THE OTHERS WOULDN'T BE HERE. AND I THINK THE WORLD WILL ASSESS IT THAT WAY AND I THINK THOSE OF YOU WHO LOOK BACK AT HIS RECORD WILL ASSESS IT THAT WAY. IT'S A VERY POSITIVE, VERY POSITIVE THING HE'S DONE FOR THE WORLD.

10. ROBINSON, EUROPEAN REPORT. WHAT SORT OF PRIORITY ARE YOU GIVING ON MAKING THE TREATY A PERMANENT PART OF U.S. LAW, RATHER THAN JUST PROVISIONAL APPLICATION?

11. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS. WHEN AND IF IT'S COMPLETED, IT GOES TO THE SENATE, WHERE IT MUST RECEIVE ACTION BY THE CONGRESS IN 90 WORKING DAYS, BY LAW. SO IT WOULD BE 90 WORKING DAYS FROM THE TIME WE FILE IT. AND IT ISN'T CLEAR WHEN WE ARE GOING TO FILE IT, I HOPE IN EARLY FALL. ONE LAST QUESTION.

12. MCGREGOR, TIMES OF LONDON. MR. STRAUSS, FROM YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH SECTOR WOULD YOU EXPECT THE MOST BENEFIT TO AMERICA?

13. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS. OH, I DON'T REALLY KNOW. WE HAVE CERTAIN PARTICULAR THINGS THAT WE'RE LOOKING HARD AT, OF COURSE AGRICULTURAL ACCESS. WE'RE LOOKING HARD AT THE AREA  
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OF SUBSIDIES, WHERE IT'S A MOST DIFFICULT AREA. THOSE ARE TWO OF THE THINGS, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE A KEEN INTEREST IN. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE OUR INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS, BUT, THERE ARE JUST SO MANY AREAS WHERE WE NEED SO MUCH DONE, THAT IT WOULD BE REALLY DIFFICULT TO ASSESS. THIS IS THE LAST QUESTION.

14. BURKHART, GERMAN NEWS AGENCY. MR. STRAUSS, YOU HAD  
BREAKFAST WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5063  
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INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
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THEY COMPLAINED BITTERLY LAST NIGHT, WITH YOU, MR. STRAUSS,  
AS SPOKESMAN, THAT THEIR INTERESTS HAD BEEN NEGLECTED BY  
THE BIG TRADING NATIONS. DO THEY FEEL ANY BETTER NOW?

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15. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS. OH, I SHOULD THINK THEY SPEAK SOME-  
WHAT DIFFERENTLY IN PRIVATE THAN THEY DO IN PUBLIC. THEY  
HAVE THE SAME PROBLEMS THAT EVERYONE ELSE HAS. THEY HAVE  
THEIR CONCERNS AND THEY'RE PROPER CONCERNS. YOU SEE, SOME  
OF THESE COUNTRIES REALLY HAVE NOTHING AND ARE JUST  
DESPERATE FOR SOMETHING TO CONTINUE THEIR ECONOMIC  
EXISTENCE. I HAVE THE GREATEST OF SYMPATHY FOR THEM, SO  
DOES OUR GOVERNMENT. DO THEY FEEL BETTER? I THINK THEY  
KNOW THAT WE'RE, AS I SAID IN DEAD EARNEST, IN WANTING TO  
LISTEN TO THEM. AMBASSADOR MCDONALD, WHO AS YOU KNOW, HEADS  
OUR NEGOTIATING EFFORT HERE, HAS SET UP A SPECIAL SECTION,  
A SPECIAL TEAM JUST TO DEAL WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND  
HE PERSONALLY WILL CHAIR THAT. THEY'LL HAVE FULL AND TOTAL  
ACCESS TO HIM AT ANY REASONABLE TIME AND TO THE MEMBERS OF  
HIS STAFF. WE'RE GOING TO HEAR THEIR REQUESTS. AND WE'RE  
GOING TO TRY TO RESPOND TO THEM. YOU HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND,  
ALSO, WHETHER YOU'RE LISTENING TO BOB STRAUSS OR WHETHER  
YOU'RE LISTENING TO MR. USHIBA, OR WHETHER YOU'RE LISTEN-  
ING TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THEY  
HAVE TWO VOICES AND THEY'RE NOT ALWAYS IDENTICAL. THERE'S  
A LITTLE DIFFERENCE. THEY HAVE THEIR OWN POLITICAL VOICE  
WHICH MUST BE HEARD BACK HOME AND THEY HAVE THEIR NEGO-  
TIATING VOICE WHICH MUST BE HEARD HERE IN GENEVA, AND I TRY  
TO TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT. ARE WE SYMPATHETIC? YES. DO WE  
EXPECT TO BE RESPONSIVE? YES. DO WE EXPECT IT TO BE A TWO-  
WAY STREET? YOU KNOW THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE A GREAT  
DEAL TO GAIN. THEY ALSO HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE. AND  
MANY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SOME OF THE DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES ARE FULLY DEVELOPED IN CERTAIN AREAS AND WHERE  
THEY ARE, THEY'LL HAVE TO BEHAVE IN THE FORM THAT'S FULLY  
DEVELOPED. I DON'T MEAN TO SPELL THOSE OUT WITH SPECIFI-  
CITY, BUT IN THE MAIN THEIR CONCERNS ARE LEGITIMATE. I  
HOPE OUR RESPONSE WILL BE EQUALLY LEGITIMATE AND DECENT  
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AND ENLIGHTENED. AND THAT'S BEEN THE STORY OF OUR NATION  
AND IT'LL CONTINUE TO BE THE STORY OF OUR NATION. I'M  
GOING TO RUN; I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE OF YOU. I GIVE YOU  
MY WORD OF HONOR NEXT TIME I COME BACK I'LL HAVE MORE TIME.  
I'VE GOT THE FLU, NO SLEEP, AND A PLANE TO CATCH. GOOD-BYE.  
(LAUGHTER) IF THAT DOESN'T EVOKE SYMPATHY I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT IN THE HELL WILL. MCDONALD

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## Message Attributes

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